

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

CRAIG, Larry E. (Republican)
Senior Senator from Idaho
Elected 1990 to US Senate; reelected
Present term expires January 2009



BACKGROUND

Born: Council, Idaho - 20 July 1945

Home: Midvale, Idaho

Marital status: Married (Suzanne) - 3 stepchildren

Religion: Methodist

Education: U of Idaho, B.A. 1969; George Washington U, M.A., 1970

Military: National Guard, 1971-2

Profession: Farmer; real estate salesman

Political: Idaho Senate, 1975-81. US House, 1981-90; represented the 1st District. In 1990, defeated former state Senator Ron Twilegar (D) for the seat of retiring Sen James A. McClure (R). Reelected in 1996 with 57% of the vote and in 2002 with 65%.

Sen Craig is a conservative.

At the beginning of the 107th Congress became a member of the new Senate Air Force Caucus. Voiced support for President Bush's authorization of 16Feb01 air strikes against Iraqi command and control centers. Applauded his colleagues for reaffirming their commitment to the C-17 by authorizing the purchase of additional aircraft. Asserted "The C-17 delivers and we must continue to support the program." Cosponsored amdt seeking to prohibit the use of funds for reorganizing B-1 bomber forces in service as of June 1, 2001. Remarked that the Air Force's decision to cut B-1B force structure would have the same national impact as a base closure and should not be made without consultation with Congress. Cosponsored another amdt to prohibit the use of funds for reorganizing B-1 bomber forces, which was withdrawn. Expressing concern that the International Criminal Court would have higher authority over US citizens than our own legal system, offered amdt to prohibit the availability of funds for assistance to the ICC or the Preparatory Commission. Criticized the process by which the homeland defense supplemental funding contained in the Senate-reported DoD Appns bill was developed. Argued that energy is no longer just an issue of economic stability, but an issue of national security. Pointed out that the US is dependent upon foreign oil for 60 percent of our needs and that a dominant amount of that oil is from the Middle East. Addressed eco-terrorism, expressing concern that these "terrorists" are funded by environmental organizations that receive government grants. Commended units from Mountain Home AFB who deployed in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle. Supported a major expansion of health care benefits for military retirees and veterans and a pay raise for military members which was included in the DoD Auth conference report. Reacting to US strikes on command and control centers near Baghdad in Feb 2001 in response to Iraq's missile firing against US and allied air craft, asserted "Today's action by President Bush sends the message directly to Saddam Hussein that the US will take every action necessary to protect our interests in that region...."

Additional: GOP Policy Committee Chairman, 2001-2; Member, Air Force Caucus

AF Bases: Mountain Home AFB; Saylor Creek Range; Boise Air Terminal (Gowen Field)

COMMITTEES

AGING - Chairman

APPROPRIATIONS - Subc on Military Construction

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES / VETERANS' AFFAIRS

JUDICIARY

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

BOARD OF VISITORS, US AIR FORCE ACADEMY (2001- Present)